

**Case 3595*****Ocydromia* Meigen, 1820 (Insecta, Diptera, HYBOTIDAE): proposed conservation of usage**

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**Abstract.** The purpose of this application, under article 70.2 of the Code, is to conserve the current usage of the generic name *Ocydromia* Meigen, 1820 for a well-established genus of hybotid flies. The type species of *Ocydromia* has long been assumed to be *Empis glabricula* Fallén, 1816. However, the correct type species is *Ocydromia ruficollis* Meigen, 1820, which is currently treated in the genus *Leptopeza* Macquart, 1834. Acceptance of *Ocydromia ruficollis* Meigen, 1820 as the type species of *Ocydromia* would change the current concept of that genus to that of *Leptopeza*, and a new generic name would be required for the taxon currently called *Ocydromia*. To avoid the nomenclatural instability that would result from following the Principle of Priority, it is proposed that all type fixations for *Ocydromia* Meigen, 1820 prior to that of *Empis glabricula* Fallén, 1816 by Westwood (1840) be set aside.

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; Diptera; HYBOTIDAE; OCYDROMIINAE; *Ocydromia*; *Empis glabricula*; *Ocydromia ruficollis*; *Leptopeza*; hybotid flies; cosmopolitan.

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1. Meigen (1820, p. 351) proposed the generic name *Ocydromia* for five new species: *Empis glabricula* Fallén, 1816, *Ocydromia rufipes* Meigen, 1820, *Ocydromia ruficollis* Meigen, 1820, *Ocydromia flavipes* Meigen, 1820 (as ‘Oc. flavipes. Meg.’), and *Ocydromia scutellata* Meigen, 1820. A type species was not designated.

2. Stephens in Richardson (1836, p. 609) designated *Ocydromia ruficollis* Meigen, 1820 as the type species of *Ocydromia*. This designation was overlooked by subsequent authors until recently and is the earliest subsequent designation of an originally included species.

3. Westwood (1840, p. 133) designated *Empis glabricula* Fallén, 1816 (p. 33) (as ‘Oc. glabricula Fall.’) as the type species of *Ocydromia*. The universally accepted concept of *Ocydromia* is based on this type species designation.

4. Evenhuis (2010, p. 43) discovered the overlooked type species designation for *Ocydromia* by Stephens in Richardson (1836). Noting the potential instability that

would result from acceptance of this earlier designation, he suggested that ‘Application to the ICZN to suppress the designation of *Ocydromia ruficollis* Meigen, 1820 by Stephens in Richardson (1836) to conserve the current generic concept of *Ocydromia* Meigen, 1820 is warranted’.

5. *Ocydromia* Meigen, 1820 is a widespread genus of HYBOTIDAE Meigen, 1820 occurring in all zoogeographical realms except the Australasian/Oceanian, that contains eight species (Yang et al., 2007) and is the type genus of the subfamily OCYDROMIINAE Schiner, 1862 (p. lii) (Sabrosky, 1999), which comprises 15 genera (Sinclair & Cumming, 2006). Recent catalogues of Diptera record *Ocydromia* as a taxonomically valid genus occurring in the Nearctic (e.g. Melander, 1965; Poole, 1996), Oriental (e.g. Smith, 1975), Afrotropical (e.g. Smith, 1980) and Palaeartic (e.g. Chvála & Kovalev, 1989) regions.

6. Nomenclatural instability would result from the adoption of *Ocydromia ruficollis* as the type species of *Ocydromia* as designated by Stephens in Richardson (1836). *Ocydromia ruficollis* is currently treated as a junior synonym of *Ocydromia flavipes* Meigen, 1820 in the genus *Leptopeza* Macquart, 1834 (e.g. Chvála & Kovalev, 1989; Yang et al., 2007). Acceptance of *O. ruficollis* as the type species of *Ocydromia* would result in the subjective synonymy of *Ocydromia* and *Leptopeza*, with *Ocydromia* having priority. The genus currently known as *Leptopeza* would take the name *Ocydromia* (with *Leptopeza* in subjective synonymy). The genus currently known as *Ocydromia* would require a new genus be described for its species (the only name currently in synonymy with it is *Eucinesia* Gistel, 1848, which cannot be used since it is an unjustified replacement name for *Ocydromia* Meigen, 1820 and has the same type species).

7. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to set aside all type species fixations for the nominal genus *Ocydromia* Meigen, 1820 before that of *Empis glabricula* Fallén, 1816 by Westwood (1840);
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Ocydromia* Meigen, 1820 (gender: feminine), type species *Empis glabricula* Fallén, 1816 by subsequent designation by Westwood (1840) as ruled in (1) above;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *glabricula* Fallén, 1816 as published in the binomen *Empis glabricula* (specific name of the type species of *Ocydromia* Meigen, 1820);
- (4) to place on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology the name OCYDROMIINAE Schiner, 1862 (type genus: *Ocydromia* Meigen, 1820);

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Comments on this case are invited for publication (subject to editing) in the *Bulletin*; they should be sent to the Executive Secretary, I.C.Z.N., c/o Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, U.K. (e-mail: iczn@nhm.ac.uk).